

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION LICENSURE IN NEW YORK STATE

Update October 2010

Hello Everyone,

I know it has been some time since I have given you an update on the Therapeutic Recreation Licensure Bill. Well, I have some bad news and some good news.

Let me start with the bad news first. Unfortunately the bill was not voted on this past legislative session. The bill never moved out of the Higher Education Committee for their review. The bill only has a two year time line to get passed. Therefore the bill will have to be re-introduced.

The good news is that both our sponsors of the bill, Senator Lanza and Assembly member Lancman have agreed to re-introduce the bill. As you are probably aware of, one of the most difficult tasks in this process is to obtain sponsorship from our legislators. We are very fortunate that both Senator Lanza and Assembly member Lancman will sponsor the bill again.

Recently the Therapeutic Recreation Licensure Committee met and put together a work plan to aggressively move forward and get the bill passed before the two year limit is up. Some of the tasks the committee members are working on are as follows:

- After Election Day, contact members of the Higher Education Committee and ask for their support of the bill.
- Send an email blast to the NYSTRA membership about contacting their legislator about the bill
- Post on the NYSTRA and METRO websites about the status of the bill.
- Write an article about the status of the bill in the NYSTRA and METRO Newsletters.
- Post on Face Book the status of the bill.
- Set-up internet access and email access for the delegates at the Downstate conference to contact the legislator in their district about supporting the bill.

I continue to ask for your patience and support as we continue to move forward. Committee members will be contacting you in the near future and asking you for your help. We are literally a few steps away from getting the bill passed and strengthening the integrity of the therapeutic recreation profession in New York State.

In the meantime, I encourage you to contact to your Senator and Assembly member and ask for their support of the bill. The following is a sample that you can send by email or phone:

Hello, my name is _____. I would like to request that you sign on and support Assembly Bill # A-8073-A or Senate Bill # S-6252. ***(Insert the A # bill for an assembly member and the S # bill for a senator)***. It is a bill to license Therapeutic Recreation specialists to ensure that Recreation Therapy/Therapeutic Recreation is performed by trained professionals and it establishes standards for recreational therapy to preserve the quality of patient care. I strongly urge you to sign on and support this bill. Thank you, _____

I invite you to also speak to your colleagues about the importance of licensure and to contact me at vbonadies@optonline.net or Linda Dianto at lcdctrs@aol.com regarding any comments or questions.

Excelsior!

Yours truly,
Vincent Bonadies, MS, CTRS
Linda Dianto, MS, CTRS
NYS TR Licensure Committee Co-Chairs